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OREGON LABOR TRENDS

Prepared by Research and Statistics Section
STATE OF OREGON • EMPLOYMENT DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
OCTOBER 1984

SEPTEMBER INDICATORS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Oregon	(Seas. Adj.)
Sep. '84	8.8
Aug. '84	8.8
Sep. '83	10.3
U.S.	
Sep. '84	7.4
Aug. '84	7.5
Sep. '83	9.2

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT INDEX

Oregon 1977=100

Sep. 1984:	105.9
Aug. 1984:	106.1
July 1984:	105.7
June 1984:	105.5
May 1984:	105.9

DIFFUSION INDEX

Oregon

Sep. 1984:	53.5
Aug. 1984:	55.8
July 1984:	51.9
June 1984:	53.9
May 1984:	57.0

PRODUCTION WORKER AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

Oregon

Aug. 1984:	38.7
July 1984:	38.7
Aug. 1983:	39.4

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

1967=100
ALL URBAN CONSUMERS

Portland MSA	
Sept. 1984	302.5
Yearly Change	+ 3.1%
U.S.	
Sept. 1984	314.5
Yearly Change	+ 4.2%
Portland Hotline	221-4132

MONTHLY ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

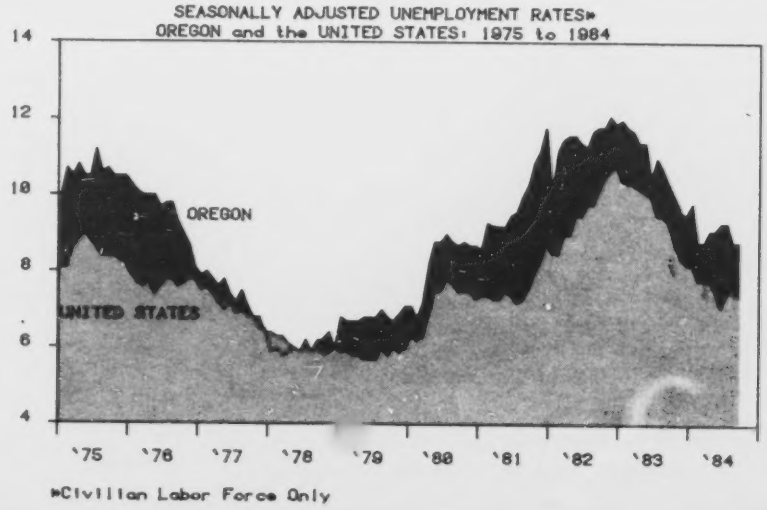
Mike Staten

September's economic indicators showed a departure from the direction set in August. Oregon's wage and salary employment index dipped 0.2 to 105.9 in September, and now stands only .4 of a percentage point above the January low of 105.5. While an increase occurred between September 1983 and September 1984, the increase was only 2.7, not a strong gain in terms of where Oregon's economy needs to go.

The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has generally been declining throughout 1984. Oregon's rate climbed during the spring, then receded to last February's level of 8.8% in August, and remained unchanged in September. September's stable unemployment rate and only slight loss in the wage and salary employment index maintained the gains made in August and showed that the economic recovery was continuing to "inch" its way through Oregon.

The Oregon diffusion index, a leading economic indicator, dropped 2.3 points between August and September to its second lowest position since February 1983. In spite of this, however, the index remained above the growth threshold of 50.0. The index has fallen fairly consistently since March, but still supports the conclusion that Oregon's economy is continuing to experience growth, but at a slower rate than earlier in the year.

Both total employment and nonfarm wage and salary employment rose in September. Nonmanufacturing industries led the way with a 14,600 gain, while manufacturing industries posted a 600 decline.



State of Oregon
EMPLOYMENT DIVISION
Department of Human Resources

RESIDENT OREGON LABOR FORCE

Research and Statistics
1983 Benchmark
October 10, 1984

	Sept. 1984 1/	Aug. 1984 2/	Change	% Change	Sept. 1983 5/
Civilian Labor Force 3/	1,333,100	1,332,700	+ 400	+0.0	1,343,200
Unemployment	99,300	106,700	-7,400	-6.9	117,300
Percent of Labor Force	7.4	8.0	xxx	xxx	8.7
Seasonally Adjusted Percent	8.8	8.8	xxx	xxx	10.3
Total Employment 4/	1,233,800	1,226,000	-7,800	0.6	1,225,900

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised. 3/ Includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older. Data are adjusted for multiple job-holding and commuting. 4/ Includes nonagricultural wage and salary, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, farm workers, and labor disputants. 5/ Due to revised estimating procedures between December 1983 and January 1984, data for 1984 and that of previous years are not strictly comparable.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(By Place of Work)

INDUSTRY	Sept. 1984 1/	Aug. 1984 2/	Sept. 1983	Change From Aug. 1984	Change From Sept. 1983
TOTAL 3/	1,011,300	997,300	984,200	14,000	27,100
Wage & Salary Employment Index 4/	105.9	106.1	103.2	xxx	xxx
Diffusion Index 5/	53.5	55.8	54.2	xxx	xxx
Total Manufacturing	207,900	208,500	198,600	- 600	9,300
Durable Goods	147,700	148,400	138,200	- 700	9,500
Lumber & Wood Products	67,400	67,600	66,300	- 200	1,100
Logging & Sawmills	35,400	35,900	34,500	- 500	900
Veneer & Plywood	17,200	16,900	18,000	300	- 800
Millwork & Structural Wood	8,900	8,900	8,300	0	600
Mobile Homes	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Other Wood Products	4,100	4,100	3,800	0	300
Furniture & Fixtures	2,200	2,100	2,400	100	- 200
Stone, Clay, Glass, & Concrete	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100
Primary Metals	8,800	8,800	7,400	0	1,400
Blast Furnaces, Iron & Steel	5,200	5,100	3,700	100	1,500
Nonferrous Metals	3,600	3,700	3,700	- 100	- 100
Fabricated Metals	10,300	10,400	9,900	- 100	400
Fabricated Structural Metals	4,800	4,900	4,500	- 100	300
Other Fabricated Metals	5,500	5,500	5,400	0	100
Machinery	16,200	16,200	14,900	0	1,300
Electrical Equipment & Supplies	13,300	13,200	10,900	100	2,400
Transportation Equipment	8,800	9,400	6,400	- 600	2,400
Instruments & Related Products	14,600	14,600	14,200	0	400
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
Nondurable Goods	60,200	60,100	60,400	100	- 200
Food & Kindred Products	29,900	29,200	30,600	700	- 700
Canning & Preserving	19,500	18,600	20,300	900	- 800
Other Food Products	10,400	10,600	10,300	- 200	100
Textile Mill Products	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
Apparel	2,700	2,700	2,500	0	200
Paper & Allied Products	8,800	9,400	9,200	- 600	- 400
Printing & Publishing	11,100	11,000	10,500	100	600
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Petroleum Refining	600	600	600	0	0
Rubber & Plastic Products	2,600	2,700	2,600	- 100	0
Leather Products	500	500	500	0	0

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(By Place of Work)

INDUSTRY	Sept. 1984	Aug. 1984	Sept. 1983	Change From Aug. 1984	Change From Sept. 1983
(cont.)					
Total Nonmanufacturing	803,400	788,800	785,600	14,600	17,800
Mining & Quarrying	2,300	2,300	1,800	0	500
Construction	31,200	31,600	30,600	- 400	600
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	56,000	55,600	56,500	400	- 500
Transportation	33,600	33,200	33,100	400	500
Railroad	5,400	5,400	5,400	0	0
Trucking & Warehousing	17,700	17,600	17,500	100	200
Other Transportation	10,500	10,200	10,200	300	300
Communications	13,900	13,900	14,900	0	- 1,000
Utilities	8,500	8,500	8,500	0	0
Trade	255,500	254,300	249,600	1,200	5,900
Wholesale Trade	65,000	64,600	63,700	400	1,300
Durable Goods	37,700	37,700	37,200	0	500
Nondurable Goods	27,300	26,900	26,500	400	800
Retail Trade	190,500	189,700	185,900	800	4,600
General Merchandise	24,800	24,900	23,900	- 100	900
Food Stores	28,800	28,500	28,200	300	600
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	24,100	24,100	23,100	0	1,000
Other Retail Trade	112,800	112,200	110,700	600	2,100
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	67,500	67,300	66,000	200	1,500
Banking & Credit Agencies	23,600	23,600	23,600	0	0
Other Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	43,900	43,700	42,400	200	1,500
Services	203,100	201,500	196,700	1,600	6,400
Hotels & Personal Services	24,900	25,000	23,500	- 100	1,400
Health Services	68,400	69,200	67,800	- 800	600
Other Services	109,800	107,300	105,400	2,500	4,400
Government	187,800	176,200	184,400	11,600	3,400
Federal Government	29,900	30,300	30,200	- 400	- 300
State Government	48,700	48,800	49,500	- 100	- 800
Education	17,800	17,700	17,700	100	100
Other State	30,900	31,100	31,800	- 200	- 900
Local Government	109,200	97,100	104,700	12,100	4,500
Education	67,400	54,900	62,800	12,500	4,600
Other Local	41,800	42,200	41,900	- 400	- 100
Labor-Management Disputes	900	700	2,500	200	- 1,600

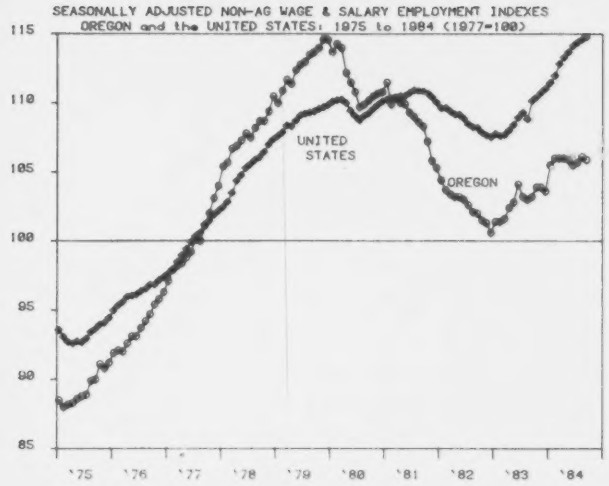
1/ Preliminary

2/ Revised

3/ Includes full and part-time nonfarm wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, private household workers and armed forces excluded. NOTE: Estimated in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment and Training Administration. All data are based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes as amended by the 1977 supplement.

4/ Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment, seasonally adjusted, and indexed to 1977. Data on the earlier index (1972 = 100) can be converted to the 1977 base period by multiplying by a factor of .8264, the ratio between 1972's annual average employment (774,300) and that of 1977 (936,900).

5/ The diffusion index is the percentage of a selected group of 43 industries showing an increase in seasonally adjusted employment. Half of those industries showing no significant change (less than 1/2 of 1%) are counted as increasing.



In the lumber and wood products industry, good weather led to a continuation of strong retail activity, resulting in distribution yards buying replacement stock. As this occurred, mills found it more difficult to meet demand. Plywood producers experienced increased action partly due to low inventories, principally of sheathing items. The veneer market, however, suffered from excess production, while waferboard plants experienced pressure to book orders. The employment outcome was a less than seasonally expected drop of only 200 between August and September, which represented 1,100 more persons employed in the industry than a year ago.

Layoffs in the shipbuilding and repair industry were a major factor causing a seasonally adjusted decline of 1,400 employes in other durable goods manufacturing in September. While there were no other significant changes over the month, 8,400 more employes were working in this group of industries than one year earlier. The greatest increases came in the primary metals, machinery, and electrical equipment and supplies industries. Continuing announcements of Japanese firms planning to locate in Oregon and of existing firms planning expansion (e.g. Wacker Siltronic), indicate that some durable goods industries will be giving Oregon's economy a further boost within the next two to three years. Other durable goods industries, however, may be hard pressed to retain their current employment levels. A recent announcement from one aluminum producer that it plans to sell its Oregon plant underscores this point.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the overly wet spring continued to affect the food and kindred products industry. Late summer and early fall crop harvests were delayed due to late plantings in the spring, and in some cases, replantings resulting from the springtime overabundance of water. Crops such as apples, corn, and onions have all been affected by the late harvests. Employment in the food processing industry lagged somewhat in September, posting a small seasonally adjusted loss of 200.

Labor disputes were the driving force behind a loss of 600 employes in the paper and allied products industry. A slight gain of 100 in printing and publishing was offset by a 100 employee loss in rubber & plastic products.

The completion of maintenance work at the Trojan nuclear power plant, coupled with a slowdown in road work, resulted in a 400 employe drop in heavy construction employment. Related construction activities, such as structural steel and concrete work, also showed declines in the number of employes. Although other construction activities made slight gains, these were insufficient to offset the heavy construction losses.

Employment in communications and utilities remained unchanged between August and September . A 400 employe gain in transportation was primarily the result of companies which provide school bus services adding employes at the onset of the school year.

Employment in the trade industry showed gains in all areas with the exception of general merchandise. The number of trade employes increased by 1,200 but was still 1,500 short of seasonal expectations, a situation which followed the national trend of a slowing in consumer spending. As the winter months approach, spending patterns are becoming more conservative.

Boosted by increases in business services, auto repair, and private education, the services industry posted a gain of 1,600 employes between August and September. Hotels and personal services declined by 100 employes, while a widespread drop in health services (other than hospitals) forced an 800 employe drop.

The start of the school year prompted a jump in government employment. September's gain, however, was 1,400 higher than normal. This was primarily because other local government employment dropped less severely than usual as local municipalities and counties capitalized on continued fair weather for street and road repairs.

In summary, September's economic performance was significant because the unemployment rate held at its lowest point of 1984, and the number of unemployed Oregonians dropped to its lowest level in four years! While the economic changes have been small on a monthly basis, over the year they have added up to noticeable improvement.□

NORTH COAST ECONOMIC PROFILE

Alan Stoebig

(Editor's note: Mr. Stoebig is the Employment Division's Labor Economist for Northwest Oregon.)

Northwest Oregon consists of the four rural counties of Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln. With the exception of Columbia, which lies inland alongside the Columbia River, these countiesare bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean. The interior of all four counties is dominated by the rugged Coast Range, which runs north and south. Terrain is largely softwood forests of Douglas fir, Hemlock, and Sitka spruce. Most of the region's relatively sparse population and industry base is located along the Columbia River and down the coastline.

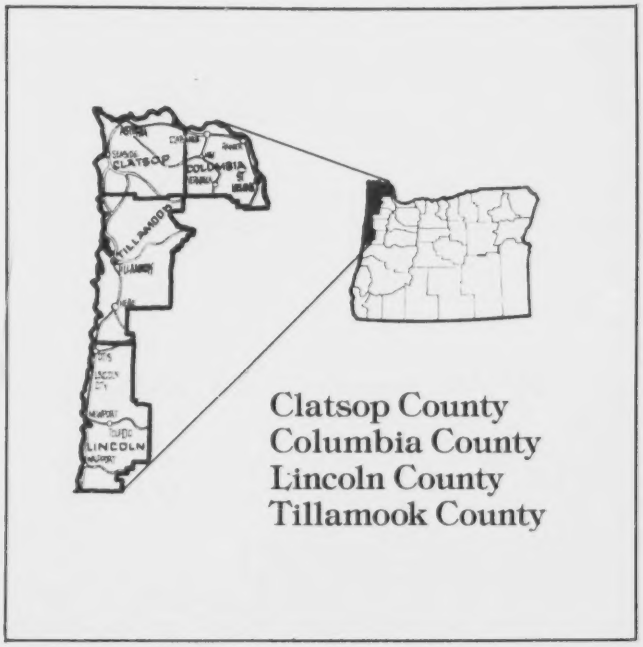
The region's population base registered major gains throughout the 1970s, but growth slowed significantly after 1980 when the 1980-82 economic downturn brought about a shortage of local job opportunities. The three coastal counties are the home for many retirees, whose incomes are relatively immune from the business cycle.

Northwest Oregon traditionally has been heavily dependent on a relatively small number of industries for its economic well-being. The region has capitalized on its natural assets to develop forestry, fishing, agriculture, and tourism industries. Lumber and wood products continues to play a prominent role in the area's manufacturing base, although this industry's employment has been experiencing a long-term decline.

Limited economic diversification, coupled with the relative isolation of most of these counties, has tended to keep economic progress in the region below the state's rate. Only Lincoln County has consistently reported a seasonally adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment index that is above Oregon's. All four counties contain local economic development organizations that are making vigorous efforts to diversify the region's base.

Growth in the region's labor force dropped significantly after 1980 as a result of the 1980-82 recession. By 1982 all four counties had recorded annual unemployment rates in double-digits. Although the 1983-84 recovery has brought jobless rates down throughout Northwest Oregon, the current economic upturn has been modest at best. This conclusion is supported by the fact that the seasonally adjusted nonfarm wage and salary employment index for each county remains below its corresponding pre-1980 level. All four counties are also on the 1984-85 Federal Register of labor surplus areas, which gives local employers preferential bidding rights on federal contracts.

Columbia County (Area: 676 sq. miles, 1983 Pop: 36,000, 1983 Unemp. Rate: 9.9%, 1982 Per Capita Income: $9,331).



Columbia's nonfarm wage and salary employment amounted to 7,540 in 1983. About one out of every two manufacturing (2,100) employees works in lumber and wood products (1,070). A large paper plant at St. Helens provides stable employment in paper and allied products (630). The Trojan Nuclear Plant near Rainier also shows little employment change in its permanent staff. The plant's annual shutdown and maintenance operation however, brings in hundreds of construction workers during the spring and summer months. Many Columbia residents commute to jobs in the nearby Portland and Longview-Kelso labor markets. Natural gas discoveries since 1979 in west Columbia County have created very few local jobs.

Clatsop County (Area: 843 sq. miles, 1983 Pop: 32,750, 1983 Unemp. Rate: 11.8%, 1982 Per Capita Income $9,679)

Nonfarm wage and salary employment in Clatsop County was estimated at 10,820 for 1983. The county, like the other two coastal counties, has a highly seasonal industrial base due primarily to the weather and the tourist season. Major manufacturing industries include lumber and wood products (750) and food products (620). A large paper plant in northeast Clatsop County provides employment stability for paper and allied products (850). The county's fishing and food products industry was adversely affected by El Nino, an abnormal warming of offshore waters, during 1982 and 1983. In recent years Seaside has upgraded its appearance and facilities to attract more tourists. Astoria should see its economy improve significantly now that Astoria Oil has been awarded a $17 million, two-year contract to build oil site modules.

Tillamook County (Area: 1,139 sq. miles, 1983 Pop.:21,500, 1983 Unemp. Rate: 12.5%, 1982 Per Capita Income: $9,376).

Tillamook, the land of "trees, cheese, and ocean breeze", had 5,360 in its 1983 wage and salary work force. The lush lowlands around Tillamook Bay support many herds of dairy cattle and other livestock.

This agricultural activity makes possible a major dairy products industry within food products (370), which has shown stable employment. Nevertheless, the county is still heavily dependent on the fortunes of lumber and wood products (650), which employs one out of every two manufacturing workers. Crown-Zellerbach, the county's largest logging firm, will phase out operations by the end of 1984, eliminating 80 jobs. However, the county's other durable goods sector (90) will show significant growth in upcoming months after Wren Aircraft relocates from Arizona to one of the WW II blimp hangers near Tillamook.

Lincoln County (Area: 998 sq. miles, 1983 Pop: 36,750, 1983 Unemp. Rate: 11.0%, 1982 Per Capita Income: $9,503).

Nonfarm wage and salary employment amounted to 11,630 for Lincoln County during 1983. The county has major industries in lumber and wood products (790); other nondurable goods (550), which is largely seafood processing and preserving; and paper and allied products (620), centered at the Toledo plant. Lincoln County, during the 1970s, mounted a successful campaign to get itself on the tourist map. Although it is strongly seasonal, tourism has been responsible for boosting employment in trade (2,930) and service (2,660), especially during the summer months. Tourism is felt most strongly in the coastal region from Lincoln City south through Newport on down to Waldport.

The Employment Division publishes newsletters that review the Northwest Oregon economy. The monthly North Coast Labor Trends, analyzes Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook counties, while the bimonthly Newport Labor Trends, examines developments in Lincoln County. The annual District 1 Economic Survey Analysis, which will be available early in 1985, profiles the entire Northwest Oregon region. □

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

The July, 1984 issue of Oregon Labor Trends contained a preliminary list of areas in Oregon which were likely to be designated by the U.S. Department of Labor as "Labor Surplus Areas" for the period October 1, 1984 through September 30, 1985.

The Labor Department's official list has now been released, and includes the 31 Oregon areas shown below. Note that this list differs slightly from the one published in the July issue. Employers located in any of these areas currently qualify for bidding preference on certain federal procurement contracts.

Baker	Lane less Eugene City
Clatsop	Lincoln
Columbia	Linn
Coos	Malheur
Crook	Marion less Salem City
Curry	Polk less Salem City
Deschutes	City of Salem
Douglas	City of Portland
Grant	Tillamook
Harney	Umatilla
Hood River	Union
Jackson	Wallowa
Jefferson	Wasco
Josephine	Wheeler
Klamath	Yamhill
Lake	

The areas shown above are not related to the designations of "Areas of Substantial Unemployment" made by the U.S. Department of Labor to determine annual funding allocations under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). For JTPA purposes only, the entire State of Oregon currently qualifies as an "Area of Substantial Unemployment." □

NEW PUBLICATION – CAREERS TABLOID

Oregon Careers, the annual guide for career explorers and job-seekers, is now available from the Employment Division. The 1984-85 edition includes tips for those entering the job market for the first time, in-depth stories on what employers look for in resumes and interviews, and articles on entrepreneurship. It is a valuable tool, for job-seekers of all ages as well as for counselors and teachers of career education and job hunting skills.

As in the past, Oregon Careers 1984-85 also provides information on key occupations in the state -- including job descriptions, employment outlook, approximate salaries, training required, and training opportunities in Oregon. In addition, the guide includes articles on various government programs and other resources for job hunters.

New this year is a Users' Guide to Oregon Careers, which has been prepared especially for counselors and teachers and includes background information as well as suggestions for career-exploration and other follow-up activities.

For copies of Oregon Careers 1984-85, contact:

Occupational Program Planning System, Employment Division, 875 Union NE, Salem OR 97311, or call OPPS at 503-378-6400 or toll-free 800-237-3710, ext. 8-6400.

Limited copies of the Users' Guide are available from Nancy Hargis, Oregon Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, 875 Union NE, Salem OR 97311, phone 503-378-8146 or toll-free 800-237-3710, ext. 8-8146. □

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Jason Yohannon

Predictable events shaped the course of hours and earnings during August. The average length of the manufacturing workweek held steady at 38.7 hours. Hourly earnings dipped by $.19, only slightly affecting weekly earnings. Among nonmanufacturing industries, only construction showed appreciable change. The construction workweek rose by 1.0 to 37.9 hours, and hourly earnings increased by 0.28 to $14.75 in August.

Lower hourly pay in manufacturing was attributable to nondurable goods -- specifically, food & kindred products which added 6,300 production workers. Because these seasonal employes earn less per hour than their permanent counterparts, hourly and weekly earnings fell in August. Earnings gains in printing & publishing were the result of more overtime work.

In terms of the workweek, several industries showed big changes, but these were expected. August increases in weekly hours in millwork & structural wood, furniture & fixtures, textile products, and apparel all resulted from reopenings of several firms which had shut down in July due to vacations, maintenance closures, or temporary layoffs. In other wood products, however, the workweek declined as these kinds of shutdowns occurred in August rather than in July. Average weekly hours in paper & allied products rose from 41.1 to 43.2 because of the continuing high level of production, possibly coupled with anticipation of an upcoming labor dispute.

Construction's weekly earnings rise went hand-in-hand with August's brilliant weather, which allowed a long workweek and more heavy construction projects across the state, especially in the Portland area.

August's average weekly hours (38.7) were below the 1983 level (39.4). Although lower weekly hours can indicate a slowing of manufacturing activity, that is not the case now. Rather it indicates rising confidence among employers in hiring new employes to handle increasing workloads instead of working current employes overtime. Almost all components of manufacturing show higher employment than in August 1983, with 11,500 more employes, of which 10,300 are "production workers". Although the average employe is working fewer hours per week, more total hours are being worked. Assuming productivity has stayed constant, the result is more production.□

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF OREGON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WORKERS 1/

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug. 2/ 1984	July 3/ 1984	Aug. 1983	Aug. 2/ 1984	July 3/ 1984	Aug. 1983	Aug. 2/ 1984	July 3/ 1984	Aug. 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING 4/	$401.71	$409.06	$394.39	38.7	38.7	39.4	$10.38	$10.57	$10.01
Durable Goods	421.79	421.30	413.42	39.2	39.3	39.6	10.76	10.72	10.44
Lumber & Wood Products	426.62	431.64	425.32	38.4	38.3	39.2	11.11	11.27	10.85
Logging & Sawmills	451.39	470.01	450.46	37.9	39.2	38.9	11.91	11.99	11.58
Veneer & Plywood	438.20	420.24	427.88	39.8	38.1	39.4	11.01	11.03	10.86
Millwork & Struct Wood	342.22	318.99	335.60	39.2	34.9	40.0	8.73	9.14	8.39
Mobile Homes	282.23	286.31	297.17	34.8	35.7	37.1	8.11	8.02	8.01
Other Wood Products	409.96	453.53	420.40	37.1	40.1	40.0	11.05	11.31	10.51
Furniture & Fixtures	302.02	276.72	281.86	37.8	33.3	36.7	7.99	8.31	7.68
Primary Metals	504.06	501.25	512.78	41.9	43.1	40.6	12.03	11.63	12.63
Fabricated Metals	400.79	397.60	399.65	39.8	39.8	41.5	10.07	9.99	9.63
Machinery	406.77	415.31	403.39	39.0	40.4	38.9	10.43	10.28	10.37
Nondurable Goods	351.38	372.05	346.75	37.5	36.8	38.7	9.37	10.11	8.96
Food & Kindred Products	272.92	304.67	289.25	36.1	36.4	39.3	7.56	8.37	7.36
Canning & Preserving	230.33	248.16	244.11	35.6	35.3	39.5	6.47	7.03	6.18
Other Food Products	379.34	396.13	408.39	37.3	38.2	38.6	10.17	10.37	10.58
Textile Mill Products	217.66	198.21	218.95	35.8	32.6	37.3	6.08	6.08	5.87
Apparel	207.31	156.22	204.28	37.9	29.7	37.9	5.47	5.26	5.39
Paper & Allied Products	581.47	574.58	544.85	43.2	41.1	40.6	13.46	13.98	13.42
Printing & Publishing	443.01	408.67	386.31	35.9	34.4	34.4	12.34	11.88	11.23
Construction 4/	559.03	533.94	537.26	37.9	36.9	36.4	14.75	14.47	14.76
Communications & Utilities 5/	498.48	492.08	466.44	40.2	40.5	39.0	12.40	12.15	11.96
Trade 5/	296.34	298.93	284.97	34.7	34.8	34.5	8.54	8.59	8.26
Wholesale Trade	395.86	408.96	382.02	38.1	38.4	37.6	10.39	10.65	10.16
Retail Trade	246.42	245.60	236.88	32.9	33.1	32.9	7.49	7.42	7.20
Banking & Insurance	268.23	273.47	263.32						
State & Local Government	353.76	346.50	338.11						

1/ Figures are average gross hours and earnings of full and part-time worked or paid for, including overtime and shift premium pay. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. All data are based on the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes.
2/ Preliminary
3/ Revised
4/ Data for production workers only and exclude administrative, supervisory (above working foremen), technical, sales and office personnel.
5/ Data for nonsupervisory employes only, excluding proprietors and executive personnel. Data for retail trade excludes eating and drinking places.

EMPLOYERS CORNER – EMPLOYERS TAX REPORTS TO BE PROCESSED BY OPTICAL CHARACTER READER

Jayne Martin Dick Krueger

Through the utilization of a new Optical Character Reader (OCR), the Employment Division will be able to process the data on Employer's Tax Reports faster and more efficiently. Quarterly reports will be processed by the OCR beginning in April, 1985.

The OCR "reads" alphabetic and numeric characters produced by various typewriters and line printers. The data is electronically interpreted and translated into computer language. It is then edited and recorded on magnetic tape, ready for immediate use. The OCR can perform a wide variety of accounting functions. It can recompute, cross-check, accumulate and balance totals.

The OCR will benefit employers by reducing the cost of administering the Unemployment Insurance Program, which is financed by the employer community. Accounting records will be updated sooner, which will increase the accuracy of the billing system. It will also decrease the number of personnel needed to process the reports.

In order to ensure the success of the program, employers will be asked to follow a few instructions:

1. USE BLACK RIBBON. There are various colors of ribbons that are not readable by the OCR. For best results use black ribbon to produce a dark, clear, distinct image.

2. DO NOT HANDWRITE REPORTS. Handwritten reports are difficult for the OCR to read. Reports, to be processed efficiently, must be typewritten.

3. USE APPROVED FORMS. Employers should not substitute their own computer printout for the Employment Division form unless it is in the same format as our 1985 Report of Employes Wages and Weeks of Work.

Following these instructions is vital to a successful operation.

The Employment Division is conducting a test in order to "work out the bugs" before April, 1985. We are asking for assistance from employers in conducting this test. Test forms will be mailed around November 15, 1984 and will need to be returned by November 30, 1984. We are asking a sample of employers to complete the test forms as they would their regular quarterly tax reports with the data from the second quarter of 1984. With the help of employers, we will be able to create a program that operates efficiently and smoothly.□

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Between 1980 and the year 2000, Oregon's population will grow 25.5% to reach 3,304,300, according to a recent report prepared by the Center for Population Research and Census at Portland State University. Over three-fifths of this growth is expected to occur in the decade of the 1990s.

Deschutes County is predicted to have the fastest growth (+64.3%), followed closely by Morrow County (+60.9%) and Washington County (+51.9%).

The report gives the following information for the state and for each county in five-year time periods: births, deaths, natural increase, net migration, population by age, and population by sex and age group. Population Projections, Oregon and Its Counties, 1980 to 2000 is available for $10.00 from the Center for Population Research and Census, School of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University, P.O. Box 751, Portland OR 97207.□

OREGON LABOR TRENDS

The Oregon Labor Trends is published monthly by the Research and Statistics Section of the Oregon Employment Division, Raymond P. Thorne, Administrator.

Send comments, questions, and address changes ATTN: R&S-LMI or Phone (503) 378-8657 or toll free 1-800-237-3710 ext. 8-8657.

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